

Message Text

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15

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04

CEA-01 AGRE-00 L-03 H-02 ITC-01 PA-01 PRS-01 /082 W

----- 123159

R 302101Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2625

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY PORT

AMEMBASSY PORT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINGSTON 4235

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ECON, JM, US

SUBJECT: SUGAR TARIFF PROTEST

REFERENCE: KINGSTON 4166

1. WE RECEIVED TODAY (SEPTEMBER 30) LONG-AWAITED GOJ PROTEST OVER U.S. INCREASE IN DUTY ON SUGAR. UNLESS INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE, WE INTEND TO REPLY WITH BRIEF NOTE ACKNOWLEDGING RECEIPT AND INDICATING THAT WE HAVE FORWARDED THE JAMAICAN PROTEST TO WASHINGTON.

2. FOLLOWING IS MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PROTEST NOTE: BEGIN TEXT: COMPLIMENTARY OPENING... AND HAS THE HONOUR TO BRING TO THE EMBASSY'S ATTENTION ITS GRAVE CONCERN OVER THE SHARP INCREASE IN DUTY ON SUGAR ENTERING THE UNITED STATES.

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"THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IS PARTICULARLY

CONCERNED FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

"(1) THE THREE-FOLD INCREASE IN DUTY IS
LIKELY TO CAUSE A SERIOUS DECREASE IN
THE QUANTITY OF SUGAR EXPORTED BY
JAMAICA TO THE UNITED STATES, AND THIS
WILL HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE
ALREADY SERIOUS BALANCE OF PAYMENTS
DEFICIT BEING EXPERIENCED BY THIS
COUNTRY;

"(2) THE INCREASED DUTY THREATENS SERIOUS
DISLOCATIONS IN AN INDUSTRY WHICH IS
PRESENTLY THE MAJOR EMPLOYER OF LABOUR
IN JAMAICA WITH ALL ITS ATTENDANT
SOCIAL AND WELFARE CONSEQUENCES;

"(3) THE PRINCIPLE OF GIVING SPECIAL TREAT-
MENT TO THE EXPORT COMMODITIES OF
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHICH CONSTITUTES
THE RATIONALE FOR THE GENERALIZED
SCHEME OF PREFERENCES HAS BEEN ERODED
FIRST BY THE "COMPETITIVE NEED CRITERION"
AND NOW FURTHER ERODED BY A THREE-
FOLD INCREASE IN DUTY;

"(4) JAMAICA HAS ALREADY BEEN EXCLUDED
FROM GSP PROVISIONS FOR ITS SUGAR
EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES AND WILL
THEREFORE HAVE TO FACE THE FULL EFFECT
OF THIS INCREASE IN DUTY;

"(5) THE INCREASE IN DUTY FURTHER DISCRIMIN-
ATES AMONG MEMBERS OF THE CARIBBEAN
COMMON MARKET (CARICOM) SINCE DUTY
FREE TREATMENT IS NOW GRANTED TO SOME
OF ITS MEMBERS UNDER THE GSP.

"THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IS ANXIOUS
THAT THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
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IS FULLY APPRISED OF THE SERIOUS ADVERSE SOCIAL
AND ECONOMIC EFFECTS THE INCREASED DUTY WILL HAVE
ON ONE OF JAMAICA'S MAJOR SOURCES OF FOREIGN
EXCHANGE AND WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF THIS CONCERN IS
COMMUNICATED TO THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES IN THE
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT." COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE.
END TEXT.
GERARD

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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04 MAY 2006

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